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For Immediate Release

SRS'S SIX-PACK DEMOLITION PROJECT BEATS FAST-TRACK SCHEDULE

AIKEN, S.C., March 4, 2004 – With the completed demolition of the 320-M Alloy Manufacturing Facility, Savannah River Site (SRS) workers have met the challenge of safely demolishing six M Area facilities in less than 18 months.

The project was actually completed a month ahead of an aggressive schedule.

M Area was historically the beginning of the production process at SRS. Here, facilities produced materials for use in SRS reactors. All operations have been shut down since the late 1980s.

In late September of 2002, Ralph DiSibio, then president of Washington Energy & Environment, rolled out a footprint reduction initiative for M Area. The initiative was for WSRC to dismantle and remove over 150,000 square feet of contaminated footprint in FY03, using only funds from site cost savings and productivity improvements. No budgeted funding was provided.

BWXT Savannah River Company, then the site's D&D (decommissioning & demolition) contractor, immediately initiated the biggest decommissioning project ever undertaken at Savannah River. CH2 Savannah River Company assumed responsibility for the project in October 2003 and quickly applied work procedures and lessons learned from its extensive nuclear D&D history, most recently at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site.

Project Manager Tony Long, who oversaw the work at two of the buildings, recalls the "hit the ground running" start. "The challenges were huge," he says. "313-M had not even been deactivated (equipment removed, utilities isolated, temporary power established, characterization of facility hazards, etc.)."

Long says he's most proud of the positive way his team responded with a can-do attitude. "From Day 1, everyone was pushing for cost-effective solutions to allow essential work to proceed," he says.

THE WSRC TEAM

Westinghouse Savannah River Company LLC · Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. · BNFL Savannah River Corporation
BWXT Savannah River Company · CH2 Savannah River Company · Polestar Savannah River Company

Long also noted big contributions by the site's Solid Waste Management organization and DOE-Savannah River.

"Timely waste removal was key to keeping the demolition work on schedule," he says, "and DOE provided us with the historical releases for 313, 320, and 322 that allowed us to proceed with actual demolition. The support and assistance in issue resolution we received from DOE was particularly important to the project's success."

Gay Fussell, project manager for the other four buildings, says her most challenging task was the transfer of nuclear materials in storage buildings 330-M and 331-M to Envirocare of Utah.

"The two buildings were the key to successfully accomplishing numerous schedule milestones, as the material had to be removed and shipped before demolition could begin on 313-M," she explains. "My team did an outstanding job of safely packaging the depleted uranium and loading the trucks. More than 150 shipments were completed ahead of schedule, with no deviations on receipt at Envirocare."

The remainder of M Area is scheduled to be razed by the end of 2006.

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